

## THE COLLECTIVE NETWORKING REVOLUTION

VANCOUVER, BC (April 28, 2004) – **BCNET** ([www.bc.net](http://www.bc.net)), a non-profit society for the development of advanced networks within the province, held the last day of the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Advanced Networks Conference where world renowned computer visionary **Doug Engelbart**, Director, Bootstrap Institute, talked about the importance of keeping communities connected and the importance of advanced networks in every day life.

*"Purposefully pursuing accelerated evolution of mankind's knowledge development and application capabilities is a HUGE CHALLENGE, and requires very effective strategies in applying our resources,"* said **Engelbart** during his keynote address.

According to **Engelbart**, large-scale technological evolution for the improvement of the global society is necessary and should start at the academic level. He advocated that Networked Improvement Communities (NICs) from the education sector should be looking at improving their collective IQs by establishing Dynamic Knowledge Repositories (DKRs). Through DKRs, academic institutions could exchange knowledge and experiences while sharing costs and risks. And then from academic centres, NICs would spread to other communities.

*"Universities are a great place to start because they provide students with real-world problems that they can solve collectively in a global context. The undergraduates who are currently working under the DKR model find it an extremely stimulating experience,"* concluded **Engelbart**.

As a precursor to **Engelbart's** futurist NIC model, Grids are currently shaping the architecture of today's networking world.

*"There is a strong movement to integrate all kinds of grids, Community Grids, Content Grids, Data Grids and Computing Grids,"* said **Dr. Son Vuong** from the Laboratory for Networks and Internet Computing (NICLab) at the University of British Columbia. The objective of **Vuong's** "Federated Grids" or "FedGrids" for short is to unify interface and information models while sharing information, computing and communication across boundaries.

**Mic Bowman**, from Intel Research and **Gautham Sastri**, from Terrascale Technologies also advocated federating computation on a global scale.

This year's conference was made possible by the support and work of the Sponsors, speakers, Program Committee members, BCNET Staff and the Board of Directors, Netera Alliance and WestGrid staff.

**Platinum Sponsors: the Ministry of Management Services, Western Economic Diversification and iCORE.**

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Conference Supporters: IEEE, Backbone Magazine and Urban Networks

Conference speakers, sponsors, organizers and the over 300 attendees are invited to celebrate the success of the last day of the event at a reception hosted by **Ken Hewitt**, President, Netera Alliance

### About BCNET

**BCNET** ([www.bc.net](http://www.bc.net)) is a non-profit society supporting and promoting advanced networks for the province's research and education communities. The organization serves BC's academic, research and

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### BCNET

Suite 3200 – SFU Harbour Centre  
515 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, BC, Canada V6B 5K3  
Phone: 604.822.1348 Fax: 604.822.9887  
[www.bc.net](http://www.bc.net) ~ [info@bc.net](mailto:info@bc.net)



development institutions, government bodies, community organizations and industry groups. BCNET is the province's foremost leader in advanced network technology and is leading the way for enhancing education and research capabilities over the Internet. BCNET is supported by the provincial and federal governments as well as by its regional Member institutions.

#### **About Netera Alliance**

Netera Alliance ([www.netera.ca](http://www.netera.ca)) is a non-profit organization responsible for development of the research information infrastructure in Alberta, including Alberta's research network. It represents Alberta's universities, colleges, research organizations and government and coordinates the build and management of the research network and connected resources. It provides support for research and innovation across all disciplines, without preference or partiality.

#### **About WestGid**

WestGrid ([www.westgrid.ca](http://www.westgrid.ca)) is a \$48 million project to purchase and install an innovative grid-enabled computing infrastructure across BC and Alberta. The facilities spanning the two provinces are connected by BCNet, NeteraNet and CANARIE and available to the general research community. The resources support data-intensive computations and collaborative research.

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